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Grand Valley State University

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# The Lanthorn



Volume 1-1

GRAND VALLEY STATE COLLEGE, ALLENDALE, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1981

Number 33

## Lack of riders cuts Muskegon bus run

by Becky Burkert

Lack of riders has ended Grand Valley's bus service to Muskegon. But according to Kathy Sullivan, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Students, alternatives are being sought.

"For the summer semester, I have applications for car pooling and for the fall semester we'd like to have a van service," said Sullivan.

Sullivan explained that the van service, called Michigan, would operate under the state of Michigan.

"The procedure will be that a person would lease the van from the state. The state gets the vans from car manufacturers. The person who leases the van would then pick up other riders," said Sullivan.

Sullivan last week passed a petition around to the Muskegon bus riders and 30 to 34 responded positively to the van service.

"The transportation department has said that it will only lease the van to state employees or to faculty members. But students can ride the bus. They possibly could lease a van, too, but the rules of the state department might limit them somewhat," said Sullivan.

The rules for a person driving a van are that he must have driven for at least five years and the period for leasing a van would be for a 50 month span or about five years.

"The 50 month leasing time would stop most students from leasing the van," said Sullivan. "I think most students will ride the vans."

In the fall of 1979, Grand Valley started bus runs to Holland and Grand Haven because of student ridership interest. Later that year a Muskegon run was added. Last January, the Holland run was eliminated because of a lack of riders and state funds.

Currently, the Muskegon run has about a 30 member ridership which according to Sullivan is not enough to support the cost of the bus—about \$33,000.

She then went on to say that the present cost for passengers now ranges from \$.50 to \$1.00. If the service is to run next year each passenger will have to pay at least \$8.00 a day (\$4.00 each way).

"The general fund so far has paid for the bus service," said Sullivan. "But next year we do not have the funds. The Department of Transportation has told us that we should support education and not transportation."

... The Department of Transportation

has told us that we should support education and not transportation."

If the service is to run next year each passenger

will have to pay at least \$8.00 a day.

But the Department of Transportation has agreed to help subsidize money for the Grand Rapids Area Transit Authority (GRATA) bus runs for next year. Even so, some of the runs will be eliminated because of a lack of ridership, according to Sullivan.

buses will run in the morning and evening with no noon run.

For the spring and summer semester, beginning May 18, GRATA will have three runs daily at 8 a.m., noon, and 5 p.m.

For next fall, GRATA will have no evening runs to Grand Valley with the last run at 5:34 p.m.

During semester break, May 11-15,

## Sunbelt employment shifts from North

(CPS) - The historic shift of population and jobs from the northeast and mid-west to the Sun Belt states is beginning to alter the job prospects for students in those areas of the country. While placement counselors in the Frost Belt states mourn that even the companies still based nearby are often travelling to Sun Belt campuses to hunt for campus talent, Sun Belt placement officers say they're having a hard time meeting recruiters' demands for students to hire.

Though the shift is slow, already business and industries—particularly in energy-related fields—in Sun Belt states like New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Colorado and Oklahoma are complaining they can't find enough students to meet their hiring needs.

Meeting the demand is actually a losing battle at some schools. Enrollment in petroleum engineering has more than tripled in the last eight years at Texas A&M, says W. Douglas Von Groton, yet "We're not keeping up with the demand."

The number of petroleum degrees awarded at Texas A&M has grown from 300 in 1973 to 900 in 1980. Von Groton says the school could actually place about 1200.

Similarly, the Colorado Petroleum Association says that while 34,442 in that state are now employed in oil and gas exploration and marketing, the number is certain to swell in the future. It expects some difficulty in finding the right people.

Sun Belt companies' first instinct is to recruit among local students, according to area placement services. Texas Tech reports a 15 percent increase in the number of companies visiting its Lubbock campus. That figure doesn't include the increase in number of jobs offered, which Gerry Phaneus of the placement office estimates is even higher.

Similarly, David Small of the University of Houston reports a "definite increase in technical, business and science" job offers both at his school and elsewhere in the southwest. There is even an increase in job offers to non-technical majors, especially for management and administrative positions.

Southwestern students enjoy not only wider exposure to hiring companies, but easier access to them. Transportation costs of visiting a potential employer are less, as are the costs of moving to take a job.

Mark Decker of the National Association of Manufacturers says this is

Houston, Tulsa and Denver. All three centers are within a one-or-two day drive from Sun Belt campuses.

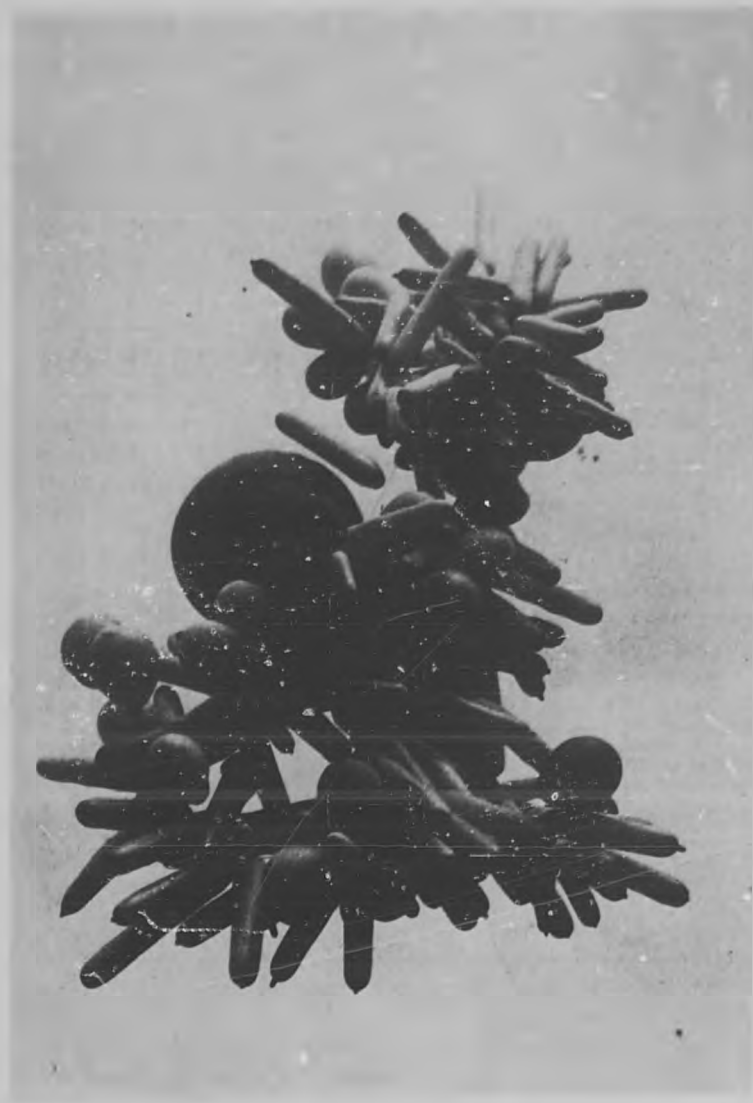
"There is a smaller risk in hiring someone local," Small notes. "The students that have gone to school here obviously like the area and are used to the climate. Also, area businesses know the curricula of local colleges, and they know what kind of training and background their employees will have."

Texas Tech's Phaneus agrees. "If a person can stand up and walk, they can get a job here."

Southwestern students consequently have "the ability to pick and choose," Phaneus says. "A computer specialist can land a position anywhere in the country, but he can only get a range of choices in the southwest."

The increase in job offers to Sun Belt students, however, translates into fewer offers to Frost Belt students. Even Frost Belt recruiters are heading south for talent, some placement officers say. Phaneus reports "a tremen-

continued on page two



UP, UP, AND AWAY. These balloons symbolize the ending of the semester as they fade off into the distance (photo by Craig Utter).

## Minimum wage to drop

(CPS) - Don White knows what kind of worker is best in retail businesses. He prefers someone who "has an 80 I.Q. or higher, takes a few showers a week, and is a student."

White, who is vice president of the American Retail Federation, also would prefer people who fit the profile to work for less. In response to White's and other trade groups' desires, Congress is now thinking of making it easier for businesses to pay students less than the legal minimum wage.

The minimum wage, of course, was raised from \$3.10 to \$3.35 an hour only last January 1st, when students College Work-Study programs became eligible for minimum wage for the first time. Most off-campus businesses employing students have always had to pay their workers the minimum wage.

But all that could change if one of three bills now in Congress passes. The bills allow employers to pay teenagers and full-time students of any age just 85 percent (or lower) of the \$3.35 minimum.

About 500,000 student workers already get sub-minimum wages under special government exemptions. Colleges and businesses can win the rights to pay student workers sub-minimum wages if they get exemptions from the departments of Education and Labor. But both employers complain government regulations and departmental sloth make applying for exemptions from the law not worth the effort.

Current legislation would let employers hire an unlimited number of

students at \$2.85 or less per hour, and would restrict them only from letting them work more than 20 hours per week.

"Every time a restriction on the student (wage) program was loosened," observes Conrad Fritsch of the Minimum Wage Study Commission, a government-authorized consulting group, "there's been a dramatic increase in the number of businesses applying for exemptions."

In 1977, when businesses were allowed to employ six instead of four students at sub-minimum wages, the number of firms applying for exemptions leapt from 963 to 5600, Fritsch says.

Fritsch concedes that "there's something to what businesses say. It does take time for the Dept. of Labor to process their applications. There are not enough application reviewers, and there's a lot of paperwork."

A new student exemption, however, would mean "a lot more students" would work for sub-minimum wages, Fritsch claims.

Union politicking, though, has probably stopped enactment of any of the three bills so far. The Reagan administration is backing off the idea, while representatives of fast food chains and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce declined to testify at recent congressional hearings.

Their reluctance, some unionists say, derives from their fear that a student exemption would mean amending the Fair Labor Standards

continued on page two

## Senate reallocates funds

by Mike Hilliard

On April 27th, the Student Senate decided to support the Crosswinds Yearbook for the 1981-82 school year. The Senate set aside \$500 in a special contingency fund so that a contract can be signed with the Yearbook Associates, a Florida based firm, allowing the Crosswinds to get started.

Michael Huler, a Crosswinds staff member, presented the Senate with a request for \$400 for use in case of need; he stated that there was a good chance that the money wouldn't even be used, but was necessary to insure that the initial agreements would be possible.

The decision came after a lengthy discussion that focused on whether there is sufficient interest among students to justify the commitment of funds, and whether a commitment should be made, given the lack of hard cash estimates on the Crosswinds' part.

In other Senate business, an internship arrangement was agreed upon to get a graphic arts student to work on promotional posters for Student Senate activities.

The Recreation Committee allocated \$1,000 to the Soccer Club because of the club's loss of support from the college.

by a collective bargaining agreement reached by GVSFA and the administration."

Personnel Officer Rosemary Alland noted, however, that "the membership of a bargaining unit is a negotiable item at the bargaining table. It is not necessarily restricted to those faculty eligible to vote in the collective bargaining election."

The Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC) is expected to announce a date soon for a formal hearing to decide the matter. The election will be held sometime after the start of Grand Valley's fall semester.

## Faculty and college at stalemate

Representatives of the Grand Valley State Faculty Association (GVSFA) and the College are unable to agree on who should be eligible to vote in a collective bargaining election requested by the union, an affiliate of the MEA.

The college has proposed the same voter eligibility definition which was agreed upon in the 1979 and previous elections. "The college position is that all regular full- and part-time faculty members should have the right to vote on whether or not they wish to be represented by a union," said John Gracki, assistant vice president for academic affairs.

"The union is proposing to exclude from voting about 50 faculty who are unit heads - including about 35 department chairpersons and professional directors, seven librarians, and three or four faculty on regular part-time appointments.

"The college is opposing these exclusions."

According to GVSFA-MEA spokesperson Anthony Travis, "We wanted to redefine the bargaining unit in order for us to more effectively represent full-time, tenure-track, teaching faculty members. Under our proposal, faculty members with administrative duties would not be eligible to vote, nor would they be covered

## Logical thinking employs most '81 grads

(CPS) - The most job offers for 1981 graduates will be in "those areas quantitative in nature," that encompass "logical thinking, working with problems, and contributing toward their solution," predicts John Sofie, director of the University of Alabama's Career Planning and Placement Service.

Sofie predicts that data processing, accounting, finance and marketing skills in particular will be in the largest demand this summer, in addition to the seemingly ever-present need for engineers of all types.

Engineering majors will continue to be one of the hottest college commodities at least through the end of the century because of the boom in energy-related industries, explains David Small of the University of Houston's placement center.

At the University of New Mexico, engineering students - who compose one-tenth of the school population - get about 60 percent of all the job offers made to UNM students.

Moreover, the job market for engineers increases at a yearly rate faster than any other profession. A March report by the College Placement Council estimates last year's increase in engineering hiring at 16 percent over 1979. The entire petroleum and allied products industries hired 34 percent more individuals in both engineering and administrative management in 1980, adds Jack Shingleton of Michigan State.

The newest wrinkle in the job market is that many experts predict an increase in demand for teachers within the next five years. The National Center for Education Statistics says the education colleges will be graduating less than one-half the teachers they were a decade ago. But in the meantime, however, the demand - which has dropped steadily since 1970 - will start climbing as the products of the 1950s baby boom begin having children of their own.

NCRS estimates the supply of new teachers to be 780,000 in 1984-85, about 78,000 fewer than the projected demand.

Even now, 37 states, mostly in the booming south and southwest, complain of teacher shortages, according to the National Education Association.

Currently, the market remains strong for students in all health-related fields, especially nursing. Agriculture and science report a balance between new graduates and professional openings, but job prospects are particularly bright for holders of advanced science degrees.

According to a survey titled "Recruiting Trends" published by Michigan State, the market is tightest for communications, human ecology, liberal arts, and social science majors.

In all categories, however, prospects are slightly better for minorities and women.



# Clear water in the jungle paradise

by Jeff Tikkanen

When I came to Grand Valley three years ago, freshmen students newly arrived to CAS were gawking at long, black-ribbon haired women of TJC—soaking their feet alongside Zumberge Pond dreaming mystic melodies as big jelly-bean goldfish and long sucker carp made their rounds; Grand Valley was unique.

While Ferris and Central Michigan were off-brick high-tech teaching schools in the middle of no where to be seen and Michigan and Michigan State were too ranking big to ease, Grand Valley was unique—offering a rainbow spectrum of education for the deep-blue sky-diving liberal arts major to the conservative type who liked straight roads, traditional education: "Father, please."

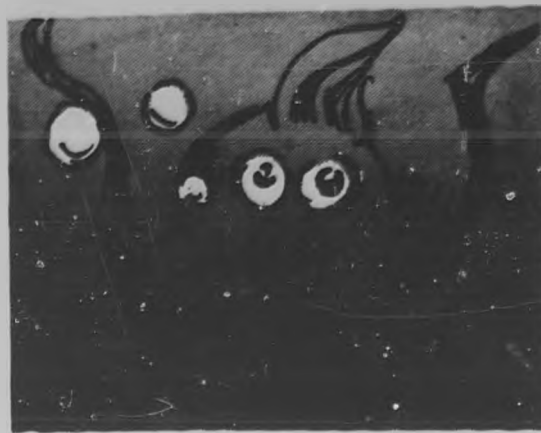
But budget cutting time came with a conservative butcher-knife swing citing the "unprofitable" as "un-

necessary," so by the wayside went TJC with it's free thinkers too care-free to scream.

And cut away from most every department were the independent, liberal teachers who didn't fit into the "vocational-educational" scheme.

About the same time the budget axe was beginning to fall, spring-time goldfish counts in Zumberge Pond were on the way down. You see, every spring the plant department poisons Z Pond and grass to rid the campus of "unwanted" algae and pesty weeds, leaving dead carp carcasses for all to see. It costs a lot and poisons our water, but is somehow deemed necessary even in times of financial crisis.

I'm not crying about this year's closing of the Performing Arts Center or the plant department's new policy of cutting, civilizing the fields of wildflower weeds alongside the tar-oil-pavement walk from the



Campus Center to the rusting Loutit Hall. It's the ignorance of men who have to play god and won't let the whole nature be. That causes me to die inside.

If only foolish men would realize they are not gods endowed with the power to pass judgement on what is just for another person and how nature should be seen. They would stop their blind destruction and begin to understand the way of life and see creative beauty of each living thing's being.

For goldfish left alone will eat the pesty algae. And un-cut lawns will save everyone money—becoming beautiful fields gracing our lives with "real" prickly thorns and nesting song-sparrow songs. Students given the freedom to breathe life into an education they can choose will take on the natural role of leaders and not act like ignorant sheep.

The poisoned, controlled, stifled shrubbery and grass of the Campus Center lawn represents the cancer in our lives. And excuse me, but this goldfish needs clear water to see. Hello jungle paradise; good-bye cold cement streets.

## Resident assistant selection process begins anew

by Jill Prince

A Resident Assistant (RA), according to the job description, is "a student chosen to be a part-time member of the Advisory Staff. The work of an RA is basically practicing and teaching the art of living responsibly. The RA helps fellow students to realize and meet their responsibilities. She/he works with individuals in his/her area, and helps these individuals share the responsibilities of group living."

Although this sounds like a hard and possibly unglamorous job, RAs are an important part of the dorm life.

Selection of RAs for the 1981-82 academic year began in February with the two general information sessions Feb. 4 and 5. At this point, interested students had the opportunity to talk with present RAs and receive an information packet with an application and peer reference forms.

The next stage in the selection process began after the Feb. 23 deadline for the applications and peer references. From Feb. 23 to March 6, paper screening took place. According to Robert Byrd, acting director of housing, "What we do here is check the student against their academic standing. If below a 1.5 GPA they are ineligible to go on; if below a two point, we carry this through to the decision making. . . can a student keep their grades up?"

Once past the paper screening, the candidates attend their first personal interview with their hall manager and the present RAs of that hall, who as a group decide if the person should advance to the second interview. What is assessed in this interview, said Byrd, is "just general knowledge of what the RA is. To see if the student in fact has looked at an RA and checked out what an RA does. . . their value judgements. . ." Of the initial 53 candidates, 32 went on the second interview at which the professional staff questioned them with the same criteria in mind.

The third interview, unlike the first two, is a small group interview. These took place April 6 - 16. At this interview the prospective RAs have a leaderless group discussion. Byrd said, "We have RAs and professional staff looking at one individual as they work out this group problem. We evaluate what they're saying, how they feel about it, whether they block what another person's trying to get across. . ." Although the professional staff has the power of veto, at this time "the hall managers look at all the candidates that went through this group exercise and get a staff together that they would be comfortable with as direct supervisors, the hall managers," said Byrd. Of the 24 candidates who entered this interview, 15 were needed to add to the five returning RAs in order to have a complete staff of 20.

"We look at the remainder of the people and either offer them an alternate position. . . or they would just be rejected," explained Byrd. This year, three of the remaining nine were offered the position of alternate RA. Involved in this position is eight hours of desk duty per week, attendance at the summer RA workshop, and attendance at RA staff meetings. It is also from this pool that a new RA would be taken if an RA for some reason could not fulfill his/her duties.

All twenty of the RAs must attend a week long summer workshop to be trained for this job which is held at the end of the summer. After this they are placed in their job as an RA, which is "pretty much a 24 hour a day, on-call, job except for the duty times," said Byrd. "It takes a pretty decent commitment."

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## The Lanthorn

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The opinions expressed in The Lanthorn are not necessarily those of Grand Valley State College.

## Wage

Act. "Businesses know the unions will push for an increase in minimum wage" if the amendment process starts, says Michael Tiner of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union.

"The administration doesn't want to touch the act," agrees Charles Brown of the Minimum Wage Study Commission. They'd rather try and hold the line on minimum (wage), and let inflation do the dirty work."

Still, exemption opponents, who deride the legislation as the "McDonalds Windfall Profits Act" expect renewed lobbying for the exemption soon, and certain victory for it if the Republicans gain control of the House of Representatives in 1984.

They'll be lobbying for three bills in particular. Sen. Orrin Hatch's (R-Ut) version allows businesses to pay teenage or full-time student workers 75 percent or less of the legal minimum

wage. Two others—by Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill) and Rep. Carroll Campbell (R-SC)—call for 85 percent of minimum wage levels.

The student bills, Tiner contends, will "put full-time students in competition with every other teenager."

They'll do worse than that, says Frank Viggiano of the U.S. Student Association.

"The bills would encourage students to hide their full-time status or even reduce their status to part-time" in order to make more money, Viggiano predicts.

Deceit becomes almost mandatory for older students, Viggiano adds. "The fastest growing sector of students is now women over 35, many of whom have dependents and who can ill afford to have a large cut in pay. Many of these people are heads of households, and would be forced to drastically reduce their course loads."

Fritsch, on the other hand, feels student sub-minimum wages "prob-

ably wouldn't have such adverse effects. Many students are just working to buy books and stuff, and generally aren't impoverished."

"In college, students may not mind slinging hamburgers for a while," theorizes Steve Hychka of the National Association of College and University Business Officers, "because they're studying to be doctors or something where they'll be earning a lot more. Or sometimes they're just working to supplement scholarships."

Hychka feels that many students "prefer getting a job at sub-minimum than no job at all."

Robert Bradford of the National Restaurant Association told a congressional meeting that the recent raise in the minimum wage may have abolished 500,000 full-time jobs.

Though most research indicates the minimum wage increase eliminated more nonstudent jobs than student jobs, more than 25 percent of the

nation's colleges and universities already were exempted from paying students minimum wage for work-study jobs.

Nevertheless, students at campuses from Stephens College in Missouri to Old Dominion in Virginia to Western State in Colorado who got the minimum wage as of January 1st found their hours were cut back to compensate for the higher costs to their schools.

Yet no one outside of Congress is willing to predict that giving students sub-minimum wages will create new jobs.

"Frankly we do not know" how many jobs would be created by tampering with the minimum wage, says Bradford of the restaurant association, whose members are, he says, the largest employers of young people. "So little is known about the extent of potential job creation effects," he testified.

## Michigan colleges receive allocations increase

Michigan's state-supported colleges and universities are slated for appropriation increases averaging 12.3 percent for the 1981-82 fiscal year under a bill currently awaiting Gov. William G. Milliken's signature.

However, Lansing officials warn that the appropriation could be much lower, with increases ranging from zero to 7 percent, if Milliken issues an executive order cutting state spending in October, as is widely anticipated.

The appropriation bill Milliken is expected to sign later this month calls for a \$13.9 million allocation for Grand Valley, a 12 percent increase over the institution's 1980-81 funding.

For Grand Valley's budget pur-

poses, the figures vary from those in the appropriations bill because Grand Valley's fiscal year begins July 1, while the state is on an October-through-September fiscal calendar.

Under Grand Valley's fiscal year, the appropriation translates to \$13.9 million, or a 7.6 percent increase over the previous year. If the executive cutback occurs, Grand Valley might actually receive less money than last year, or, at best, an increase of 2 percent over the 1980-81 appropriation, according to Ronald F. VanSteeleland, vice president for administration.

"We can't use the appropriations bill figures in our budget planning, because state officials say those figures

are almost certain to be reduced, probably with an across-the-board executive cut in October," VanSteeleland said.

According to VanSteeleland, Grand Valley's budget decisions must be made in early June so that a balanced budget can be presented to the Board of Control at its June 26 meeting.

The appropriation bill which has been sent to Milliken is slightly higher than the governor's original budget proposal for higher education, in which Milliken asked for \$13.6 million for Grand Valley. That would have meant \$13.3 million, or a 6.6 percent increase, in terms of Grand Valley's fiscal year.

## Arts employment improve

(CPS) — Defying recent trends and statistics, job prospects for liberal arts majors may be improving as businesses and industries begin to look for people to populate "the other side of the field," according to career placement experts. Moreover, observers find that although liberal arts graduates have a harder time getting their first job, they usually are promoted to management positions faster than graduates from technical fields.

Gerry Phaneus of Texas Tech's placement office says that liberal arts majors, with their "broad base of knowledge" and "strong communication skills," are increasingly considered best for most kinds of entry-level positions.

Phaneus speculates that the trend will continue despite last year's grim statistics, which showed a decrease of 11 percent in the number of job offers to 1980 liberal arts grads. The reason, he says, is that even highly technical companies now need people for the administrative sides of the fields.

The "ability to synthesize information" may be the liberal arts grad's most marketable skill, notes Robert Beck of American Telephone & Telegraph. It makes the grad a good candidate for management positions. A recent study of 6000 1980 graduates presently employed at AT&T graded liberal arts scholars as having the greatest potential in interpersonal and administrative skills, intellectual ability and motivation.

Not only do such students often excel in managerial positions, but they reach management level earlier in their careers than those people with technical backgrounds, according to Beck. A study of 20-year AT&T employees showed 43 percent of the former liberal arts majors had reached "midmanagement level," while only 23 percent of business majors attained that status.

Although liberal arts students do make good managers in time, IBM's Tom Horton warns that such a broad education "may not help an individual get his first job." Indeed, a survey of 562 business and government agencies by the Michigan State University Placement Service showed that on-campus recruiters were least impressed with the "preparedness" of liberal arts students. Not enough of them demonstrated their skills during the interview, the survey found.

## WGVC Auction surpasses goal

by Thomas D. Smith

For the last seven years WGVC-TV has held an auction of items donated from area merchants in order to raise funds for station operations. So it was nothing out of the ordinary when, at 1:30 in the morning of May 3rd, Auction Co-Chairman Vance Orr, Jr., called up people beneath the main entrance of the Auction 35 set and introduced them to the public as those people who had given their time and energy to stage the 1981 auction.

And it paid off. With an official goal of \$250,000, Auction Coordinator Mary Ann Cheney announced to a waiting audience that the event had brought in a record \$270,265.

This year's auction was the first one not to be held on the Grand Valley Campus itself. For various reasons,

primarily availability of facilities, the 1981 auction took place at the Cascade Ice Arena, a site over 20 miles from the campus. Last year the event was held in the Louis Armstrong Theatre.

"This Auction has been a fantastic amount of fun for us," said Orr, who co-chaired the 1981 fundraiser with his wife Karin. The Orrs will be succeeded in the post of Auction Co-Chairmen by Vice Co-Chairmen Dennis and Pat Pehrson.

The Auction is always the last fundraiser for the WGVC fiscal year. The next appeal to the viewing public will come in December with the first of two membership pledge drives. As for productions, the Auction is the last scheduled until May 30th, when the station will take their cameras north to Muskegon to broadcast a concert of the West Shore Symphony.

## Sunbelt

dous influx" of recruiters from Maryland, Massachusetts and Michigan.

"Companies who never recruited west of the Mississippi are beginning to come here," he says. Phaneus attributes the change in regional recruiting to the publicity surrounding engineering and computer programs at the Texas schools, and to the population migration from the northeast.

Not surprisingly, then, hiring activity in the northeast has dipped below the national average. Manpower, Inc., one of the largest temporary employment agencies, found in an April survey that only desirable goods

manufacturers expect a "better hiring outlook" this spring, and finance, insurance and real estate executives in the region plan fewer staff increases than at any time since the mid-seventies.

Current campus job offers in the midwest aren't any better. Career placement specialist John Shingleton of Michigan State University says a number of employers haven't followed through on their campus interviewing plans because of the uncertain economic picture in the region.

MSU, along with other Michigan schools, are having a particularly

## from page one

rough time. Shingleton says MSU used to place more graduates in the auto industry than any other college, but that two of the Big Three auto makers aren't even interviewing this spring.

For many of the students who ordinarily would have caught on with the auto industry, the interviewing freeze means travelling out of state for jobs, Shingleton says. But out-of-state job hunting, he adds, is very costly. He wishes he could advise them to go to the Sun Belt of jobs, "but some just can't get there, and the companies are not coming to us in the midwest."

## Corrections

Last week the Lanthorn incorrectly reported that the organization called the Association for International Understanding (AIU) will attempt to send students to foreign countries. In actuality, according to David Porter, President of the AIU's Board of Directors, the AIU will "raise money for students to attend educational programs with the same philosophy."

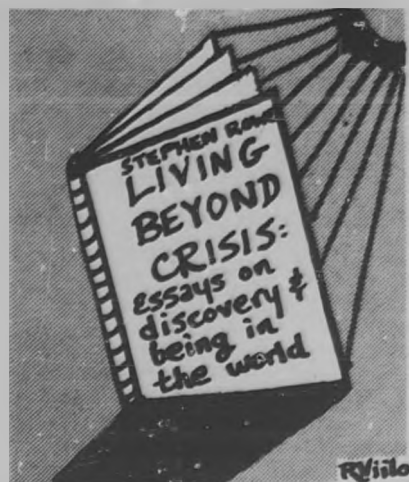
Also, students at Grand Valley do not pay seven dollars each year for the Lanthorn, as quoted in the article on newspaper thefts.



Stephen Rowe Interviewed

# Author of 'Living Beyond Crisis' talks about his latest venture

by Karen E. Miner



STEPHEN ROWE, a WJC professor wrote his new book as a result of teaching the course (photo by Patrick McLaughlin).

Stephen Rowe, a WJC professor and published author, has come out with a new book.

In the introduction to his book *Living Beyond Crisis: Essays on Discovery & Being in the World* Stephen Rowe thanks the students of William James College "...who read the essays in this volume and participated in the educational conversations that helped shape this book".

The anthology of 15 contemporary authors evolved as a result of using the essays to teach his ethics course, "Ethics, Survival, and the Good Life".

"The whole issue is how do you teach ethics? Ethics to me is between, or at the intersection of religion on one side and politics on the other, between thought and action."

The uniqueness of William James College is what drew Rowe here nine years ago. "One of the reasons why I came to William James is the first place is that this is a context in which you can have the space to really try to do what you think is important. For me, the ethics course has been right at the center of what I've been trying to do; the theory and practice of religion and cultural studies on one hand, politics on the other, and ethics in between."

I experimented with that course and developed it for nine years now, and that book in many, many ways is that course. I've been using some

of those readings, trying to find readings that are effective with students. It (the book) is my best response to the question of how to teach ethics in an effective way. One that is neither abstract or merely intellectual on the one side, nor flaky on the other."

*Living Beyond Crisis* is both a textbook and a general/trade book. Rowe says that the essays in the book are practical and have immediate value. In the introduction to the book he states: *They can help us to orient ourselves in relation to our experiences specifically, to deal with the confusion of the past couple of decades, and to feel some affirmation and direction in our intuitions of something positive in vexingly troubled times.* (pg. 15)

Rowe's work stems from a multifaceted thesis. First, "these are times that are simultaneously wonderful and terrible, in the underneath the crisis, is the struggle of a new culture emerging in relation to both personhood and the world."

Rowe feels that these contemporary essays are both beautiful and useful, therefore they are helpful. "Resources of this sort if they are merely useful, they are likely to be shallow."

This anthology along with another that Rowe edited, *World Wise* (to be published next year), are spinoffs of Rowe's major work - *Leaving and Returning: an Essay on the Emergence of a World Ethic* (Which will

be out early next year). *Leaving and Returning* is Stephen Rowe's interpretation of what we learned in the '60's and the '70's. All three works center around the idea that along with the traditional views of living - conservatism and reaction against conservatism, there has been a third orientation which has aspects of both, but is uniquely its own.

Until now, Rowe says this third way has not been readily available. "It seems to me that there is another tradition that is not based on denial. Our whole culture is now rebelling against what Robert L. Heilbroner calls the 'values of industrial civilization', or what the Moral Majority calls secularism. That the whole culture in many ways is discovering that while the values of a consumer oriented culture may be physically satisfying, they are not adequate to the human spirit."

"These views cross a very wide spectrum of people from the Moral Majority on the right, to people like Robert J. Lifton who talks about survival on the left."

Rowe says that his concern is that people see that there is another source for "getting back" to spiritual values. This third way is not as readily available or easy "...but it is forward looking and positive."

Stephen Rowe sees this as the emergence of a new world ethic. He says that the most general symbol of our era is the photograph of the earth from space. To him the beauty of the earth is a symbol of the "gift-

quality of life". He sees people regarding the earth as "...a jewel in the middle of a great void; that the earth is totally improbable, in essence a gift. Coming out of that essential experience of the earth and ourselves against the backdrop of outer space; that fundamental experience sets in motion a sort of process, developmental process people go through that leads them into the new ethic".

The process results in people living what Rowe calls the "...paradox of our humanity, simultaneously flowing and focusing our energies". In short, "Daring to be who we are and daring to commit ourselves. Daring to live with enthusiasm amidst all the improbabilities and dangers of our time".

"It's a new culture orientation that is simultaneously a vision of what it means to be a self, and a vision of what the world is, and a vision of the connection between the two".

The book also expresses Rowe's idea that we have a shared vocation in the emergence of the new ethic, and that we all have a voice. "There is not one voice, but many voices", he says.

*Living Beyond Crisis* is a resource of positive voices in turbulent times.

Stephen Rowe graduated from Colgate University with a degree in Philosophy and Religion. He also has a PhD in Social Ethics from the University of Chicago.

## 'New Plays Festival' presents fine drama

by Rob Viilo

The New Plays Festival is going on right now at the Circle Theatre Pavillion in John Ball Park. Every year young playwrights get together to unleash their creations to the public. This year it runs for three weeks. There's only one week left—so get over there! *Ernie and Arnie*, written by Roger Rochowiac, will be presented May 7, 8 and 9.

Last week, three fine plays were performed by excellent actors. They were *Generation Gap*, by Ellinore Jensen; *Polar Wandering* by Art Versluis; and *Choices*, by Anne M. Stoll.

The first week featured *Stud*, by Alan Waleczak; *Study Break*, by Peggy I. Bentley and the aforementioned *Choices*, as well.

Let's take a look at a couple of the performances.

*Polar Wandering* is the story of a lost young man who comes back to his hometown to catch his grandmother's funeral. The show had moments of comedy, making the whole Pavillion audience laugh. However, the playwright's intent was that of a more serious nature. David (played by Maki Boblette) portrayed a human on the verge of insanity. Not being able to accept his grandma's death—the idea of everything (including her) being boxed in—was just too much. Anna (played by Joanne Shreves) tried to help David with his problems, beginning with his "cold" wandering

away from home. Throughout the play, David went back to his childhood days of pretending. Michael Friedman played the hilarious Funeral Director, who was the only comedian in this otherwise serious drama.

Art Versluis, a GVSC English graduate this year, did a fine job in writing this spectacular story. The writing was enacted very realistically by all three of the fine actors. An interesting theme of a serious (psychotic) nature, mixed with a dash of humor, made Versluis's first play a winner.

*Choices*, written by another GVSC student, Anne M. Stoll, gave the audience something to think about. Nan (played by Abby Jayne) and Joey (Roy Sorensen) went through the many choices one has in life.

Together, they acted out time jags, shifting constantly from their childhood on the beach to the harsh reality of adulthood. Decision-making wasn't that rough as children for Nan and Joey, but as maturity struck so did the headaches of constant change. *Choices* was very well executed by the playwright's different approach

of delivery combined with superb acting.

The New Plays Festival is put on annually through the efforts of GVSC and Stage 3. It is definitely something to watch for.



## Honors concert impressed many

by Jill Prince

The GVSC music department held the "GVSC Chamber Orchestra and Honors Soloists In Concert" Tuesday, April 28 at 12 noon in the Louis Armstrong Theatre. Seven pieces were performed. In each, an honors soloist was featured.

The seven honored performers were Jean De Vries, soprano; Kimberlee Childs, flute; Rhonda Boccarossa, mezzo-soprano; Gregory Christensen, French horn; Patricia Klimas, piano; Susan Schulling, soprano; and Steve Fnoote, euphonium.

Although the concert got off to a slow start when one soloist had a temporary memory lapse (which was quickly recovered) as a whole, the concert went very well. The audience, impressed with the performance, clapped enthusiastically and called three soloists back for a second bow.

The solos were done well, blending nicely with the background music provided by the Chamber Orchestra.

It was easy to see that these seven students truly deserved the honor given them at this concert.

**Music**

### Our Apologies

In the article, "Jazz Concert Springs Into Season" (April 30 issue), we of the Lanthorn arts and entertainment section, apologize for not thoroughly covering the Soudio Jazz Orchestra's performance in comparison with the others.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

"Art Machine"—by James Clover... an art showing being held in the Campus Center Art Gallery thru May 7.

Summer Student Employment—On Thursday, May 7, at 1:30 p.m. in the Service Building, a meeting will be held concerning summer student employment for May, June, July and August, 1981. Students who wish to be considered

for summer employment must attend this meeting.

Anyone from WJC—interested in being appointed to Student Senate please contact Jeff Rodin ext. 231 for details.

Erilyn P. Zask—"Thy Name is Woman" Color portraits of women. Fri., May 8, 7-9 p.m., Addition Gallery, 1813 Plainfield N.E., GR.

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